

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00

SS-15 /082 W

-----071223Z 096716 /53

R 071209Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3675

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 16630

GERMANTOWN FOR THORNE, BAUER; WASHDC FOR SIEVERING,
GIAMBUSSO AND HELFRICH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, FR, US

SUBJECT: FRENCH INTEREST IN MOLTEN SALT NUCLEAR PLANT

1. RECENT DISCUSSIONS INDICATE THAT EDF'S DIRECTORATE
OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH HAS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN
THE MOLTEN SALT NUCLEAR PLANT (MSR) CONCEPT, CONSIDERA-
BLY MORE THAN IN THE HIGH TEMPERATURE GAS REACTOR
CONCEPT.

2. EDF HAS IN PROGRESS AN EFFORT INVOLVING APPROXI-
MATELY HALF A DOZEN ENGINEERS WHICH EVALUATES THE MSR
AND IS DEVELOPING WHAT IT CONSIDERS AN IMPROVED AND
MORE VIABLE CONCEPT HAVING MANY ADVANTAGES. IT APPEARS
THIS CONCEPT FEATURES A LARGE CARBIDE VESSEL, RELATIVE-
LY LOW WORKING FLUID TEMPERATURES AND HEAT EXCHANGE
BY FLUID MIXING RATHER THAN THROUGH A WALL. PRELIMI-
NARY EDF CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT AT EQUILIBRIUM
THIS PLANT COULD BE FED BY REJECT URANIUM FROM
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PIERRELATTE.

3. THESE COMMENTS REINFORCE PREVIOUS COMMENTS MADE
BY THE DIRECTOR OF CEA'S CHEMISTRY DIVISION REPORTED
IN PARIS AIRGRAM 167 OF MAY 6, 1977, THAT THE
FRENCH MIGHT CONSIDER MSR DEVELOPMENT AS A BACK-UP
TO LMFBR.

4. IT APPEARS THIS EFFORT WAS KEPT LOW-KEY PENDING
ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL COMMITMENT TO THE SUPER PHENIX
LMFBR PLANT BUT SINCE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PLANT HAS
BEEN LAUNCHED, CEA-EDF NEGOTIATIONS MAY TAKE PLACE SOON
TO ESTABLISH A SERIOUS MSR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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